

someone in the city of Colón posted stickers declaring “CAMBIO,” meaning change in Spanish. The regime charged Mr. Pedrosó on January 7 with the crime of possessing “subversive propaganda.” It is not known yet how long a sentence Mr. Pedrosó will face for this so-called crime. This may be because the tyrannical regime is attempting to scare other peaceful political dissenters by making an example with the unjust arrest of Mr. Pedrosó.

Mr. Pedrosó is a member of the Pedro Luis Boitel Democratic Party. He has a long history of nonviolent political dissent and has previously faced time inside the repressive gulags of the Cuban tyranny.

Even outside prison the regime's thugs have repeatedly harassed Mr. Pedrosó. According to reports, in September 1998, Mr. Pedrosó was threatened by the despot chief of police in San José de los Ramos, Matanzas province. The policeman publicly said that he had orders to shoot Mr. Pedrosó in the head and then a few days later said he had his gun ready.

A few months later Mr. Pedrosó was summoned to the headquarters of the Sistema Unico de Vigilancia y Protección, SUVP, Unified Vigilance and Protection System, where he was told that he needed to stop his human rights work and “get a job” or he would be charged with the crime of “dangerousness.” However, Mr. Pedrosó was unable to find employment because of his past peaceful political activities. One week later, he was arrested and “convicted” of “dangerousness” and received a two-year sentence in the gulag.

My colleagues, it is unconscionable that someone can be sent to a gulag just because a dictatorship suspected he was posting stickers with the word “CAMBIO.” Why are they so afraid of the word “change”? What has them so scared of such a simple and peaceful word? What they are really scared of is anyone in any way challenging their tenuous grip on the Cuban people and putting a spotlight on their condemnable, abhorrent treatment of the Cuban people.

Madam Speaker, the arrest of Mr. Pedrosó is yet another example of the totalitarian dictatorship's total disregard for human rights in that enslaved island. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Juan Pedrosó Esquivel and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING SCOTTY LIPPERT, JR.

HON. GEOFF DAVIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated community servant and a national leader in his profession.

Scotty Lippert, Jr., is a standout in his field. For twenty-one years, he has worked for Clopay Plastics Products, a global leader in specialty films, extrusion coatings, custom-printing and engineered laminations. As a planned maintenance specialist and lubrication systems leader, he is one of only 745 people worldwide to meet the education, training, and examination standards required to achieve Machinery Lubrication Technician Certification.

Scotty Lippert helped design and construct a lube room that was judged best in the world

by a panel of national and international lubrication engineers. He is beyond doubt an expert in his field, authoring training books on lube-room construction and articles on lubrication systems and lending his services to a number of Fortune 500 companies. Just as importantly, Scotty Lippert's best practices in the field of lubrication, inspired, designed and implemented at Clopay, are now being used by the U.S. Navy.

On November 2, 2007, Scotty Lippert was chosen as the 2007 Kentucky Manufacturing Employee of the Year. He was chosen by a panel of judges on account of his innovation, teamwork, community service, and leadership credentials.

In addition to his dedication to his company and profession, Scotty Lippert serves his community as a magistrate in Bracken County.

Scotty Lippert deserves praise for his contributions to his vocation and community, and I know the citizens of Bracken County and the Fourth Congressional District join me in recognizing his many achievements and contributions to our region.

INTRODUCTION OF EQUITABLE MINERAL LEASE REVENUE SHARING RESTORATION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, with my Colorado colleague, Representative JOHN SALAZAR, I am today introducing a bill to restore the equitable sharing between the Federal Government and the States of revenues from federal onshore mineral leases.

Leasing of federally-owned onshore minerals is governed by the Mineral Leasing Act, which provides that the royalties paid by the producers are split equally between the Federal Government and the government of the State where a lease is located.

This is very important for Colorado, which in recent years has received between \$30 million and \$60 million from this source. And many other States—especially in the West—have benefited as well. In fact, the most recent report by the Interior Department indicates that 34 States received a total of \$1.9 billion pursuant to this part of the Mineral Leasing Act in 2007.

Regrettably, the just-enacted appropriations bill for the Interior Department includes a provision that in effect amends this part of the Mineral Leasing Act by reducing the share of royalty funds going to affected States by 2 percent—so that Colorado and other States will get only 48 percent (instead of half) of the royalties from Federal leases within state boundaries.

My understanding is that this change was prompted—at least in part—as a way to offset some of the costs to the Interior Department of administering the leasing program and the distribution of royalty revenues.

But I do not think such a drastic change in the law should be accomplished by inclusion of such a provision in an appropriations bill, especially when it will have such a serious adverse effect on Colorado and our communities—especially those on the Western Slope—that are experiencing the impacts of

intensive development of Federally-owned natural gas and other energy resources.

Accordingly, our bill would reverse this recently-enacted change and so restore the equitable division of royalty revenues provided by the Mineral Leasing Act.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, it is February 6, 2008, in the land of the free and the home of the brave and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand—just today. That is more than the number of innocent American lives that we lost on September 11, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,798 days since the tragic judicial fiat called *Roe v. Wade* was handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million children. And all of them had at least four things in common.

They were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone. And each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each of their mothers, whether she realizes it immediately or not, will never be the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever.

Madam Speaker, those noble heroes lying in frozen silence out in Arlington National Cemetery did not die so America could shred her own Constitution, as well as her own children, by the millions. It seems that we are never quite so eloquent as when we condemn the genocidal crimes of past generations, those who allowed their courts to strip the black man and the Jew of their constitutional personhood, and then proceeded to murderously desecrate millions of these, God's own children.

Yet even in the full glare of such tragedy, this generation clings to blindness and invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims to date, those yet unborn.

Perhaps it is important for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves again of why we are really all here.

Thomas Jefferson said, “The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government.”

Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here. It is our sworn oath. The phrase in the 14th amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says: “No state shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law.”

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the Declaration, not the casual notion, but the Declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this